(b) if so, the total outlay of receipt and date of saction;

(c) the status of the survey made by NEC on the construction of bridge over Lohit and Khabolu indicating sactioned amount, expenditure made year-wise and target set to construct the bridge during the Tenth Plan period; and

(d) the amount earmarked for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) the Government of Assam had submitted list of projects for funding under NLCPR for financial year, 2002-2003. Construction of RCC Bridge No. 37/1 over Doria Channel on North Lakhimpur Kamlabari (NLK) Road at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.23 crore was included in that list. Considering the competing demands from other priority sectors like Power, Urban Development, Health, Water Supply, etc. and considering the resource constraints and already committed liability in the roads sectors in Assam, the proposal has not been taken up during the current financial year.

(c) and (d) Survey for the bridge over Lohit and Kabuli has been completed. Model Study has been taken up by University of Roorkee. A sum of Rs. 53 lakhs has been released to the Government of Assam for the completion of the study. No target has been fixed for completion of the bridge.

Disinvestment of State undertakings

231. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Miniter of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Goverments are not pursuing the disinvestment route properly and hidden subsidies of Rs. 7,000 crores annually are being given to the State undertakings as mentioned by the Minister of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) if so, whether Government are issuing any guidelines for effective disinvestment of the State undertakings and how far Government have succeded to meets the target of Rs. 12,000 disinvestment of the Cental PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Several States have been very proactive in implementing disinvestment. However, the States in general, continue to be burdened by the need to subsidise non-viable State Level Public Enterprises. As per data compiled by this Ministry, during the year 2000-2001, six States namely, Assam, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal, have provided a sum of Rs. 7,961 crore as budgetary suppoort, grants/subsidies, guarantees, waiver of dues and conversion of loan into equity.

(b) State Goverments formulate disinvestment policy and procedures on their own, though some States have adopted the pattern followed by the Central Government. In the year 2002-2003, against a target of Rs. 12,000 crore, Rs. 3,342.06 crore had been realised till 17th February 2003 by the Government.

Disinvestment of IRE

232. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IRE of Chavara in Kerala stands recommended for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Prime Minister's announcement to start a project in public sector for mineral sand exploration in Kerala appears to be a constradiction when there is a proposal to disinvest the IRE;

(d) whether Government are aware that privatisation and foreign participation in IRE in Kerala would adversely effect the security aspects of the country since it has been engaging with the strategic mineral "Thorium"; and

(e) whether Government would review the decision to disinvest the IRE?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) No proposal for disinvestment in Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) is at present under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (e) Do not arise.